

RELEASE IN FULL

CONFIDENTIAL

February 4, 2011

For: Hillary
From: Sid
Re: Egypt intel and option on transition

1. From Tyler Drumheller's sources (probably redundant information, but nonetheless...): The Egyptian army has inserted more experienced units around Tahrir Square to secure civil peace. The Mubarak thugs were given a one-time stipend that has run out and unlikely to be replenished. The army did not expect huge crowds to gather in Cairo on Friday. That was a turning point. The army will not push Mubarak out. Talk in the US Senate about cutting aid created some fear in the general staff. The most influential people they rely on for intelligence from the US are the military attaches assigned to the Egyptian embassy, who have reported back on the Senate. Mubarak's National Democratic Party is beginning to fracture and several parties will be formed out of it. The demonstrators respond positively to movement toward actual constitutional reform and a real transition. That is what will turn the movement in the streets into politics.
2. Ideas/options (also may be redundant, but nonetheless...): The "transition" has focused rightly on constitutional amendments and reform. But if civil peace prevails over the weekend the formation of political parties should next week be openly encouraged by Egyptian authorities—accompanied by statements of respect for freedom of speech and association essential to parties and elections. Parties should now be created, begin the process of selecting candidates, shaping platforms, speaking on issues, and starting campaigns before the constitutional reform takes place and in anticipation of it. If the weekend goes well on the "transition," then the government should call for the people to start forming parties for the coming election and the army should be pledged to protect the fairness of the election process. Meanwhile, the fundamental constitutional reform proceeds...